bio-ethanol and other bio-fuels). The draft National Policy on Bio-Fuels has been referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM).

Increase in prices of milk and its products

*28. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for increase in the prices of milk and milk products day-by-day;

(b) whether Government have any plan to control the prices of these items which are commonly used items; and

(c) whether there is any plan to decrease the prices of milk and milk products?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Prices of milk and milk products are increased by the producers/manufacturers as and when there is increase in production costs. Government regularly reviews the availability of milk and milk products in the country.

The prices of milk and milk products are fixed by the producers/manufacturers. However, the Government constantly monitors the price of milk and milk products.

Schemes for agricultural productivity

*29. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's announcement that the farm sector programme will be implemented and is working on a new Rs. 25,000 crore farm sector programme to be implemented by States for increasing agricultural production and productivity;

(b) if so, whether details of the schemes have been finalized and announced;

(c) if so, what are the details of the same; and

(d) whether the Planning Commission is also working with his Ministry for implementing a new additional central assistance scheme to be provided to the States for implementing the farm sector programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) Scheme, namely, the "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)" with an envisaged allocation of Rs. 25,000 crore during the XIth Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The broad objectives of RKVY are, *inter-alia*, to: (i) incentivize the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors; (ii) achieve the goal of reducing the yield gaps in important crops through focused intervention; (iii) maximize returns to the farmers in agriculture and allied sectors; and (iv) bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity of various components of agriculture and allied sectors by addressing them in a holistic manner.